

ND Juvenile Detention Screening Tool Study

Conducted by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (March 2015)

Discussion:

- Ineffective Data Management System
 - Not integrated
 - Does not allow for empirically-rooted decision making
 - No unique identifier per disposition
 - No specific date field to measure time of re-offending
 - Automate detention screening tool to allow for less error and subjectivity
- Significant use of mandatory holds/detention over-rides
 - Over-rides are nearly 1/3 of all detentions
 - Does not prevent future reoffending > High failure rates

Recommendations:

- Support a New Data Management System in Juvenile Court
 - measuring recidivism
 - supporting automated objective risk tools
 - program success rates
- Support the use of objective tools at all entry points within Juvenile Court
 - Detention screening tool
 - YASI – risk assessment tools pre-disposition

**Detention Rates of American Indian Youth
Burleigh County**



*** Per 100 referrals

2015 ND Juvenile Court Detention Screening Tool Average Risk Scores

<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Unit 2</u>	<u>Unit 3</u>	<u>Unit 4</u>
6.4	9.2	12.1	7.1

2014 ND Juvenile Court Detention Screening Tool Average Risk Scores

<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Unit 2</u>	<u>Unit 3</u>	<u>Unit 4</u>
6.6	9.2	11.2	6.9

2015 Unit 3 by Race:

Hispanic – 15.4

Black – 12.5

Caucasian - 12.4

Native American – 11.5

Detention Screening Tool:

The goal is to objectively evaluate risk level and assist the detention decision-making process. The purpose is to ensure release of appropriate youth back into the community with the minimum risk of re-offending or not appearing for a scheduled hearing.

In 2010 the Burleigh/Morton County area began using a Detention Screening Tool to objectively assess risk when making detention decisions. In both counties the tool is used prior to a placement into detention by the police youth bureaus that exist in both Bismarck and Mandan. The tools only used on juveniles where there maybe a question as to the need for detention.

This screening tool has been used statewide since January of 2014. Due to available resources, in all of the other counties and communities the tool is scored the following working day after the child is placed into detention. The purpose at that point would be to determine who can be released or need to stay in detention.

The study we have before us today is just on the cases out of Morton and Burleigh Counties that were scored prior to detention.

Items of discussion:

- Are there any thoughts on the large use of holds/over-rides?
- Does anyone on the committee see a need to limit the use of mandatory holds or over rides?
- Is there something the committee could do to support changing in that regard?
- Any committee members wanting to look at legislative changes for the use of detention?
- Should all juveniles in custody be assumed indigent and automatically qualify for an attorney?
- Should the tool be given to all parties of the case?

- Should the juvenile court use risk tools in JC pre-dispositional for recommendations to the court?

Grant funding

- New database to measure and automate the risk tools?
- Funding for validation of the YASI risk tool use for recommendations for the JC?
- The State Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee may be willing to consider using federal funds as match depending upon what the grant funding would be for and what amount of funding is needed if the court isn't able to budget match.